Message

From: Johnson, Taylor [Johnson.Taylor.C@epa.gov]
Sent: 8/21/2020 9:47:34 PM
To: Johnson, Taylor [Johnson.Taylor.C@epa.gov]
Subject: WEEK OF AUGUST 24 - EPA Communications

Importance: High

DRAFT-DELIBERATIVE / CONTENT SUBJECT TO CHANGE

WEEK OF AUGUST 24 – EPA COMMUNICATIONS

MESSAGE OF THE WEEK: PFAS

Technical Challenge / Destroying PFAS in Firefighting Foam

- EPA, along with federal and state partners, launched a challenge looking for detailed plans for a non-incineration way to destroy PFAS in concentrated aqueous film forming foam (AFFF), a type of firefighting foam.
  - The goal of the challenge is to discover new non-incineration technologies and approaches that can remove at least 99% of PFAS in unspent AFFF while preventing the creation of harmful byproducts.
  - EPA is offering a range of prize money totaling $50K for the best design concept(s).
- Addressing PFAS is one of EPA's top priorities, and EPA's researchers are hard at work developing and evaluating methods to destroy PFAS. This challenge will complement our researchers' work by harnessing the power of crowdsourcing to come up with a new way to destroy PFAS.
- PFAS chemicals are very persistent in the environment and hard to destroy due to their chemical makeup. Given increasing concern about PFAS, EPA programs and regions, states, and tribes are in urgent need of efficient solutions to destroy PFAS contaminated media and waste.
  - Currently, EPA is investigating all methods of destroying PFAS, including incineration and other technologies. While incineration is an approach that has been used to treat PFAS-contaminated media, there remains uncertainty about its effectiveness to completely destroy PFAS and concern about its potential to create hazardous by-products.
- For the challenge, EPA is collaborating with the U.S. Department of Defense's Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program and Environmental Security Technology Certification Program; the Environmental Council of States and the Environmental Research Institute of the States; Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy; and Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment.

Topline PFAS Messages

- Aggressively addressing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) continues to be an active and ongoing priority for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- EPA has made significant progress implementing the PFAS Action Plan —the most comprehensive cross-agency plan ever to address an emerging chemical of concern.
- EPA efforts are helping EPA, states, tribes, and local communities across the country target PFAS reductions and protect public health.
- Building on the assistance provided to more than 30 states, EPA is continuing its commitment to supporting state, tribal, and local communities in addressing PFAS.

Scientific Leadership and Research

- EPA is conducting in-house research, including (1) testing to understand toxicity within the larger universe of hundreds of PFAS products; (2) developing and validating analytical methods for detecting and measuring PFAS in air, water and solid media; (3) understanding fate, transport and exposure to PFAS via different pathways; and (4) documenting and testing approaches for stabilizing, removing, or destroying PFAS in contaminated materials.
- In May 2020, EPA expanded its research efforts and capabilities by launching its PFAS Innovative Treatment Team (PITT).
- In July 2020:

o EPA announced that in partnership with DoD, USDA, HHS, we engaged the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to host a workshop to review federal PFAS research efforts and help identify possible

research gaps. This workshop will ensure PFAS research across the federal government is coordinated, complementary, and avoids unnecessary duplication.

o EPA added new treatment options for four new PFAS compounds and 20 new scientific references to the Drinking Water Treatability Database.

o EPA released updates to the CompTox Chemical Dashboard, including new data and predictive models for PFAS.

- In August 2020, EPA awarded $4.8 million in funding for new research on managing PFAS in agriculture.

Drinking Water

- In December 2019, EPA published a new validated method to accurately test for 11 additional PFAS in drinking water. EPA can now measure 29 chemicals.
- In February 2020, EPA announced a proposed decision to regulate PFOS and PFOA in drinking water. The comment period on these preliminary determinations closed on June 10, 2020, and the agency received over 11,000 comments. The agency is reviewing comments received and will take the appropriate next steps.
- Nationally, EPA has invested $7 million in Public Water System Supervision supplemental grants to support drinking water protection efforts related to PFAS and other emerging contaminants.

Monitoring

- In July, EPA transmitted the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 5 (UCMR 5) proposal to OMB for interagency review. Consistent with EPA's commitment in the PFAS Action Plan and the requirements of the FY 2020 NDAA, EPA anticipates proposing nationwide drinking water monitoring for PFAS under UCMR 5 utilizing new methods that can detect PFAS that could not be detected before as the new methods detect more PFAS chemicals at lower concentrations than previously possible.

Cleanup

- On December 19, 2019, EPA issued Interim Recommendations for Addressing Groundwater Contaminated with PFOA and PFOS, which provides clear and consistent guidance for addressing PFOS and PFOA contaminated groundwater for federal cleanup programs. This is a critical tool for our state and local partners to help protect drinking water resources in communities across the country.
- EPA has initiated the regulatory development process for listing PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under CERCLA.
- In July, EPA submitted the Interim Guidance on the Destruction and Disposal of PFAS and Materials Containing PFAS to OMB for interagency review. The guidance would provide information on technologies that may be feasible and appropriate for the destruction or disposal of PFAS and PFAS-containing materials. It would also identify ongoing research and development activities related to destruction and disposal technologies, which may inform future guidance. This is a first step toward EPA fulfilling its FY 2020 NDAA obligation to publish interim guidance on the destruction and disposal of PFAS within one year.

Toxics

- In September 2019, EPA issued an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking that would allow the public to provide input on adding PFAS to the Toxics Release Inventory.
- In May 2020, EPA issued a final regulation that added a list of 172 PFAS chemicals to Toxics Release Inventory reporting, as required by the FY2020 NDAA.
- In July 2020, EPA issued the final SNUR regulation that can stop products containing PFAS from entering or reentering the marketplace without EPA's explicit permission.

Enforcement

- To date, the Agency has taken 14 enforcement actions to specifically address PFAS contamination under SDWA, TSCA, RCRA, and CERCLA, and will continue to do so to protect public health and the environment.

Coronavirus Response

- EPA continues to take action to ensure that Americans can disinfect public spaces effectively and efficiently to control SARS-CoV-2, the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19.
- EPA has released new guidance that outlines how the agency will expedite the review of requests to add electrostatic sprayer application directions to the labels of disinfectant products for use against SARS-CoV-2.
- Electrostatic sprayer application is an effective way to disinfect large indoor spaces.
- EPA's new guidance, which was developed with the CDC, provides step-by-step instructions for public spaces, workplaces, businesses, schools and homes.

- EPA has compiled a list of disinfectant products, including ready-to-use sprays, concentrates, and wipes, that can be used against COVID-19.
- When using these products, always follow the directions and safety information on the label. A disinfectant product's safety and effectiveness may change based on how it is used.

Continue to Push

- **Recycle Right**: Access on SharePoint, or search with quotation marks "WEEK OF MAY 11 – EPA COMMUNICATIONS" to find in your Outlook inbox.

HQ PRESS RELEASES

- 8/24: Long Lasting Disinfectants FIFRA (R6 amplify)
- 8/24: Virginia Superfund Tour Wrap Up (R3 amplify)
- 8/25: PFAS incineration challenge (all regions amplify)
- 8/25: PFAS round table release (R4 amplify)
- 8/25: NC Wrap up release (R4 amplify)
- 8/26: EEF fertilizer challenge (all regions amplify)
- 8/26: NC Wrap up release (R3 amplify)
- TBD: Farm FACA

AW INTERVIEWS

- 8/24: Fayetteville Observer Preview Interview
- 8/25: Good Morning Fayetteville

AW SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- 8/24: Nansemond Superfund Site, Virginia
- 8/25: North Carolina PFAS Round Table
- 8/26: Virginia Ag Event

SOCIAL MEDIA*

Monday	*Tuesday*	*Wednesday*	*Thursday*	*Friday*	*Saturday*	*Sunday*
Virginia Superfund Tour Long lasting disinfectants FIFRA	North Carolina PFAS Incineration Challenge	Virginia EPA/USDA Fertilizers				

*Posts on flagship EPA and Administrator Wheeler accounts (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Linked In, You Tube)
Programs and Regions are encouraged to share as applicable to your audiences. (T) = tentative.

SHARABLE DIGITAL CONTENT

Download from the Digital Resource Library on the OPA Information Hub

REGIONAL PRESS RELEASES

- 8/24 R6 Trash Free Water Media Advisory (R6)
- 8/24: ICYMI -- Puerto Rico DA/RA trip Wrap Up (R2)
- 8/24: Partial delisting of Allied Chemical Superfund Site in Ironton, Ohio (R5)
- 8/25: Lake Tahoe microplastics grant, CA/NV (R9)
- (TBD): EPA settlement with Arkema, Inc. enforces Clean Air Act Compliance at Chatham, Va. plant (R1)

- 8/26 NM PM 2.5 Monitoring grant (R6)
- 8/27 R6 Trash Free Water Press Event (R6)
- 8/27: Public comment period on draft RCRA permit for Heritage Thermal Services in East Liverpool, Ohio (R5)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

- TBD: Final action on Dewey Burdock UIC permits and aquifer exemption for uranium recovery project in SD press release (R8)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

UPCOMING EVENTS OR PROJECTS

- September: 50th Anniversary Theme (Environmental Emergency Preparedness, Leads: OLEM/OHS)

COMMUNICATIONS RESOURCES

- AP Stylebook (public affairs staff writing for media): https://www.apstylebook.com/epa/
- EPA Stylebook (i.e. Agency Branding): https://www.epa.gov/stylebook
- OPA Information Hub: https://usepa.sharepoint.com/sites/OA_OPA_HQ